

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10785 111519Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

BIB-01 AID-05 /071 W

----- 086350

R 111412Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 10785

3.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJ: ABOLITION OF ASU'S SUPERVISORY PRESS AUTHORITY

1. ON AUGUST 7 PRESIDENT SADAT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION, ABOLISHED THE ASU'S PRESS AUTHORITY. THIS ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN SET UP IN 1966 TO "SUPERVISE" ALL PRESS ESTABLISHMENTS AND GIVEN THE LEGAL CLOUT TO DO SO. THE FIRST DIRECTOR WAS AHRAH'S POWERFUL MUHAMMAD HASANAYN HAYKAL.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, PRESIDENT SADAT'S DECISION TO DO AWAY WITH FORMAL ASU SUPERVISION OF THE PRESS WAS INTENDED TO FREE THE "FOURTH ESTATE" FROM "EVERY RESTRAINT," REAFFIRM FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AND REINFORCE PRESS'S ROLE IN THE "DEEPENING OF DEMOCRACY." THE PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS REITERATING A POINT MADE IN MANY OF HIS RECENT SPEECHES, I.E., THE PRESS MUST BE STRENGTHENED DURING "THIS PERIOD OF TRANSFORMATION FROM REVOLUTIONARY LEGITIMACY TO CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY."

3. COMMENT: THE ASU PRESS AUTHORITY HAS BEEN MORIBUND. A YEAR AGO A HIGHER PRESS COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED TO BE FOCUS OF THE "SELF-CENSORSHIP" WHICH THE PRESIDENT INTENDED SHOULD REPLACE MORE FORMAL ASU AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CONTROL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10785 111519Z

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD AT THE TIME THAT THE HPC WOULD EVEN

TAKE OVER THE ASU'S POWER TO LICENSE NEW PUBLICATIONS.
(THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN HAYKAL WAS RUMORED TO BE PLANNING
HIS OWN NEWSPAPER, THE HPC CHAIRMAN TOLD JOURNALISTS HE
HAD RECEIVED NO LICENSE APPLICATION FROM HIM.)

4. CHAIRMAN OF DAR AL TAHRIR (GUMHURRIYA) AND PRESIDENT
OF PRESS SYNDICATE ABDUL MUNIM AL SAWI TOLD POLCOUNS AUGUST 11
THAT DECISION WAS STRICTLY PRO FORMA. IT ABOLISHED ORGANIZATION
THAT NO LONGER HAD ANY FUNCTION AND WAS DONE IN CONNECTION
WITH NEW ASU FIRST SECRETARY MUSTAFA KHALIL TAKING OVER
AS CHAIRMAN OF HIGHER PRESS COUNCIL. IT DOES NOT THEREFORE
SIGNAL ANY NEW ERA OF PRESS FREEDOM. EACH PUBLICATION IS
STILL CHARGED WITH EXERCISING SELF-CENSORSHIP TO GUARD AGAINST
"IRRESPONSIBILITY."
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, INFORMATION CONTROL, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO10785
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760309-0569
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760866/aaaacfd.rtel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABOLITION OF ASU'S SUPERVISORY PRESS AUTHORITY
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, EG, ARAB SOCIALIST UNION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006